

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

ACDA-05 EB-07 SAM-01 /042 R

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R 102355Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO SECDEF

CJUSMG MAAG MADRID SPAIN

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 058728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA-STINGER

REF: JUSMG DTG 201055Z FEB 76

1. IN KEEPING WITH U.S. POLICY TO CONTROL PROLIFERATION OF MAN PORTABLE, SHOULDER FIRED, SURFACE TO AIR WEAPONS SYSTEMS, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT APPROVE ISSUANCE OF PRICE AND AVAILABILITY (P&A) DATA ON STINGER. BECAUSE OF IMPROVED CAPABILITIES OF STINGER IN COMPARISON TO ITS PREDECESSOR (E.G. REDEYE) USG TO THIS DATE HAS NOT APPROVED ISSUANCE OF P&A DATA ON STINGER TO ANY COUNTRY.

2. BEGIN FYI. RECENT NSDM ON ISRAEL SPECIFICALLY DIS-APPROVED SALE OF STINGER BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY OF THIS WEAPONS SYSTEM. R&D ON STINGER IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE COM-

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PLETED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1978. ESTIMATED AVAILABILITY TO

FMS CUSTOMERS, IF ANY, IS PROBABLY AT LEAST THREE YEARS THEREAFTER. END FYI.

3. REDEYE, THE FIRST GENERATION OF U.S. MISSILE OF THIS TYPE, WAS MENTIONED DURING BASE NEGOTIATIONS BUT WAS DELETED FROM APPROVED ITEMS. U.S. BELIEVES CONTROL OF PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS LIKE REDEYE, HAMLET AND STINGER

IS NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE DANGER THESE WEAPONS WILL FALL INTO HANDS OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS, NOTABLY TERRORISTS, AND BE USED AGAINST COMMERCIAL AVIATION.

4. IN EXPLAINING THAT U.S. CANNOT MEET SPANISH REQUEST FOR P&A ON STINGER, MISSION OFFICERS SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- STINGER STILL IN R&D STAGE AND IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PRICE AND AVAILABILITY UNTIL DEVELOPMENT FURTHER ADVANCED.

-- BECAUSE OF STINGER'S ADVANCED CAPABILITIES, WE ANTICIPATE THAT TRANSFERS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL BE VERY RESTRICTED. SPANISH INTEREST IN STINGER HAS BEEN NOTED AND WILL BE KEPT UNDER ADVISEMENT. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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